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are mutually supportive. Like you, we do not view the Soviet thrust as an isolated event. Nor can we allow our response to be governed by short-term, tactical considerations. We are committed to a course which will significantly enhance our own capabilities to influence events in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean in an effort to assist the countries of the region to remain free and independent. Like you, we also seek to encourage the reduction of tensions between countries of the region and to achieve a stable peace.

Your Excellency, we live in a troubled world. But we can take profound satisfaction from the fact that our two countries have overcome decades of estrangement and suspicion in such a short time. We have no doubt that these consultations will facilitate our efforts to pursue parallel and mutually reinforcing policies in Southwest Asia and other regions. They also provide a means of promoting expanded cooperation in a variety of bilateral and multilateral issues for the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

It is my pleasure to propose a toast --

To Premier Hua Guofeng;

To President Jimmy Carter;

To the growing friendship between our two peoples.